

[Margaret Hawley]

[??]

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W 3630

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WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Packinghouse worker's job

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 6/19/34

Library of Congress

Project worker Betty Burke

Project editor

Remarks

W3630

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview American Lives

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

Jul 6 - 1939

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE June 19, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker's job

1. Date and time of interview June 19, 4:30 pm.
2. Place of interview 4958 S. Marshfield

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3. Name and address of informant Margaret Hawley

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant

None

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

None

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE June 19, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker's job

NAME OF INFORMANT Margaret Hawley

1. Ancestry Mother, Hungarian Father, Irish Margaret, American born

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2. Place and date of birth

Chicago, 25 yrs. old

3. Family Seven in family

4. Places lived in, with dates Only Chicago

5. Education, with dates 2 years of high school

6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates

Knows stenography, never had a job at it, though.

7. Special skills and interests Belongs to YWCA in the yards area. Likes labor dramatics and social good times.

8. Community and religious activities

Attends Irish Catholic church, because of her father and mother, mainly

9. Description of informant

Big and tall, 5 feet 10, Extremely white skinned, red hair cut short, clean blue eyes, well proportioned. Not talkative.

10. Other Points gained in interview

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

FOLKLORE

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CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE June 19, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Margaret Hawley

I work in Armour's sausage department. They make all different kinds of sausages. Making capricola, that's a hot Italian sausage, lots of spices and garlic in it, well, it has to be skivered. That lets the excess water out of it so that it won't spoil. Well, I do the skivering. I get all wet and greasy and sloppy. Everybody does, working on sausage.

They have sausage that they treat specially so it will have a green, fuzzy mold all over it. I don't know how anybody could want to eat it but it's made specially for Italian stores, so I guess people order it.

One thing, we're supposed to have trucks that we load the capricola in when it's ready for a different part of the floor, but they never have enough trucks, and we'll have our work tables stacked a mile high with finished work without being able to get rid of it. Then they come around and yell at us because we can't put the work out. It's us girls who lose time and pay, and they act like it's our fault that the company don't furnish the department with enough trucks to keep the place going.

FORM D

Library of Congress

Extra Comment

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE

NAME OF WORKER Betty Burke

ADDRESS 1339 S. Troy St.

DATE June 19, 1939

SUBJECT Packinghouse worker

NAME OF INFORMANT Margaret Hawley

They have the old women hauling on the trucks. The young ones wouldn't do that heavy work, most of them aren't even strong enough to do it if they wanted to, and they sure don't want to.

I worked in there where they put up pressed ham in cans. I packed pressed ham that was full of worms. They know. But I once said something about it to the boss and just got bawled out for not 'minding my own job better' and talking too much. So I shut up. I was glad when they transferred me to sausages again, though. That wormy stuff made me sick through. Sure, it's dirties and wet there where I work now, but there's no worms in the sausage meat. Or if there is, at least I don't have to see them, and then pretend I don't.